

October 30, 2002

***THIS EVENT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER AGREEMENT STATE REQUEST UNTIL 11/1/02.***

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE -- PNO-IV-02-063

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region IV staff on this date.

**Facility**

Alpha Testing, Inc.  
Dallas, Texas  
License No.: L03411  
Texas Agreement State Licensee

**Licensee Emergency Classification**

☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: STOLEN PORTABLE GAUGE

DESCRIPTION:

On October 29, 2002, the Texas Department of Health (the Department) notified NRC's Operations Center of the reported theft of a portable moisture/density gauge.

On October 28, 2002, the Department received notification of the theft of the gauge from Alpha Testing, Inc., a Texas licensee. The licensee reported that the gauge had been stolen from the back of the company vehicle while parked at the licensee's permanent storage facility in Dallas, Texas, at approximately 6:30 a.m. (CST) on October 28, 2002. The company employee had returned to the office after an extended job out of State. The operator unlocked the gauge and placed it on the tailgate of the truck. The operator then walked into the office to retrieve a chain and lock to secure the gauge in the licensee's permanent storage facility. When he returned to the truck, he discovered the gauge and other equipment missing. The gauge is a Troxler Electronic Laboratories Model 3411-B (Serial No. 6819), containing a 0.370 gigabequerel (10 millicurie) source of cesium-137 (Serial No. CC3975) and a 1.48 gigabequerel (40 millicurie) source of americium-241:beryllium (Serial No. CCA3132). The licensee promptly notified the local police and three local nuclear gauge repair centers. The Department is continuing to investigate this event.

Region IV received notification of this occurrence from NRC's Operations Center on October 29, 2002. Region IV has informed OEDO, NMSS, OSTP, IAT and the Region's PAO and SLO.

This information has been discussed with the State and is current as of 7:45 a.m. (CST) on October 30, 2002.

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